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Plaintiffs, and potential Rule 23 Class*

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK**

JIN LI
on behalf of himself and others similarly situated
Plaintiff,

v.

Case No.: 17-cv-01015

WESTERN METAL WORK & SUPPLY, INC.
d/b/a Master Metal Work;
MASTER METAL WORK & SUPPLY, INC.
d/b/a Master Metal Work;
CHENCUI XUE;
ZHI YUAN XU;
“JOHN” XU;
JINPING XU a/k/a Jin Ping Xu; and
TIM READER;

**29 U.S.C. § 216(b) COLLECTIVE
ACTION & FED. R. CIV. P. 23
CLASS ACTION**

COMPLAINT

Defendants.

Plaintiff JIN LI (hereafter referred to as “Plaintiff”), on behalf of himself and others similarly situated, by and through his attorney, Troy Law, PLLC, hereby brings this complaint against Defendants WESTERN METAL WORK & SUPPLY, INC. d/b/a Master Metal Work, MASTER METAL WORK & SUPPLY, INC. d/b/a Master Metal Work, CHENCUI XUE, ZHI YUAN XU, “JOHN” XU and TIM READER, and alleges as follows:

INTRODUCTION

1. This action is brought by Plaintiff, on behalf of himself as well as other similarly situated employees against Defendants for alleged violations of the Fair Labor Standards Act,

(“FLSA”) 29 U.S.C. § 201 *et seq.* and of the New York Labor Law (NYLL), arising from Defendants’ various willful and unlawful employment policies, patterns and/or practices.

2. Upon information and belief, Defendants have willfully and intentionally committed widespread violations of the FLSA and NYLL by engaging in a pattern and practice of failing to pay employees, including Plaintiff, minimum wage and overtime compensation for all hours worked over forty (40) each workweek.
3. Defendants refused to record all of the time that Plaintiff and similarly situated employees employed by Corporate Defendants work or worked, including work done in excess of forty hours each week.
4. Plaintiff alleges pursuant to FLSA, that he is entitled to recover from the Defendants: (1) unpaid minimum wages, (2) unpaid overtime wages, (3) liquidated damages equal to the sum of unpaid minimum wages and overtime wages, (4) prejudgment and post-judgment interest; and/or (5) attorneys’ fees and costs.
5. Plaintiff further alleges pursuant to NYLL § 650 *et seq.* and the New York Codes, Rules and Regulations 12 NYCRR § 146 that he is entitled to recover from the Defendants: (1) unpaid minimum wages, (2) unpaid overtime compensation, (3) unpaid “spread of hours” premium, (4) up to five thousand dollars (\$5,000) per Plaintiff for Defendants’ failure to provide a Time of Hire Notice detailing rates of pay and payday, (5) up to five thousand dollars (\$5,000) per Plaintiff for Defendants’ failure to provide a paystub that accurately and truthfully lists each employee’s hours along with the employee’s name, employer’s name, employer’s address and telephone number, employee’s rate or rates of pay, any deductions made from employee’s wages, any allowances claimed as part of the minimum wage, and the employee’s gross and net wages for each pay day; (6) liquidated

damages equal to the sum of unpaid minimum wage, unpaid “spread of hours” premium, unpaid overtime in the amount of twenty-five percent under NYLL §§ 190 *et seq.*, 650 *et seq.*, and one hundred percent after April 9, 2011 under NY Wage Theft Prevention Act, (7) nine percent simple prejudgment interest provided by NYLL, (8) post-judgment interest, and (9) attorney’s fees and costs.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

6. This Court has original federal question jurisdiction over this controversy under 29 U.S.C. § 216(b), 28 U.S.C. § 1331, and has supplemental jurisdiction over the New York Labor Law claims pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1367(a).
7. Venue is proper in the Eastern District of New York pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1391(b) and (c), because Defendants conduct business in this District, and the acts and omissions giving rise to the claims herein alleged took place in this District.

PLAINTIFF

8. Plaintiff JIN LI (“LI”) was employed by WESTERN METAL WORK & SUPPLY, INC. d/b/a Master Metal Work, located at 131-01 Fowler Avenue, Flushing, NY 11355 as a welder.

DEFENDANTS

Corporate Defendants

9. Defendant WESTERN METAL WORK & SUPPLY, INC. d/b/a Master Metal Work is a domestic business corporation organized under the laws of the State of New York with a principal address at 131-01 Fowler Avenue, Flushing, NY 11355.

10. Upon information and belief, WESTERN METAL WORK & SUPPLY, INC. d/b/a Master Metal Work is a business engaged in interstate commerce that had gross sales in excess of five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) per year.
11. Upon information and belief, WESTERN METAL WORK & SUPPLY, INC. d/b/a Master Metal Work purchased and handled goods moved in interstate commerce.
12. Defendant MASTER METAL WORK & SUPPLY, INC. d/b/a Master Metal Work was a domestic business corporation organized under the laws of the State of New York with a principal address at 131-01 Fowler Avenue, Flushing, NY 11355.
13. Upon information and belief, MASTER METAL WORK & SUPPLY, INC. d/b/a Master Metal Work was a business engaged in interstate commerce that had gross sales in excess of five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) per year.
14. Upon information and belief, MASTER METAL WORK & SUPPLY, INC. d/b/a Master Metal Work purchased and handled goods moved in interstate commerce.

Owner/Operator Defendants

15. The Individual Defendants are officers, directors, managers, majority shareholders and/or owners of the Corporate Defendants WESTERN METAL WORK & SUPPLY, INC. d/b/a Master Metal Work and/or MASTER METAL WORK & SUPPLY, INC. d/b/a Master Metal Work.
16. The ten largest shareholders, officers, directors, managers, majority shareholders, and/or owners are each individually responsible for unpaid wages under the New York Business Corporation Law § 630(a).
17. Owner/Operator Defendant CHENCUI XUE (1) had the power to hire and fire employees, (2) supervised and controlled employee work schedules or conditions of

- employment, (3) determined the rate and method of payment, and (4) maintained employee records at WESTERN METAL WORK & SUPPLY, INC. d/b/a Master Metal Work.
18. Owner/Operator Defendant CHENCUI XUE appears as CEO and Principal of WESTERN METAL WORK & SUPPLY, INC. d/b/a Master Metal Work on the Certificate of Incorporation of WESTERN METAL WORK & SUPPLY, INC. d/b/a Master Metal Work.
 19. Upon information and belief, Owner/Operator Defendant CHENCUI XUE acted intentionally and maliciously and is an employer pursuant to FLSA, 29 U.S.C. § 203(d) and regulations promulgated thereunder (29 C.F.R. § 791.2), NYLL § 2 and the regulations thereunder, and is jointly and severally liable with WESTERN METAL WORK & SUPPLY, INC. d/b/a Master Metal Work and MASTER METAL WORK & SUPPLY, INC. d/b/a Master Metal Work.
 20. Owner/Operator Defendant ZHI YUAN XU (1) had the power to hire and fire employees, (2) supervised and controlled employee work schedules or conditions of employment, (3) determined the rate and method of payment, and (4) maintained employee records at WESTERN METAL WORK & SUPPLY, INC. d/b/a Master Metal Work and MASTER METAL WORK & SUPPLY, INC. d/b/a Master Metal Work.
 21. ZHI YUAN XU hired Plaintiff on or about March 22, 2016.
 22. ZHI YUAN XU decided which days Plaintiff worked and had off, and what hours he should work per day and per week.
 23. ZHI YUAN XU determined Plaintiff's pay rate and did pay Plaintiff and other machine shop employees each week.

24. Upon personal knowledge of Plaintiff, Owner/Operator Defendant ZHI YUAN XU acted intentionally and maliciously and is an employer pursuant to FLSA, 29 U.S.C. § 203(d) and regulations promulgated thereunder (29 C.F.R. § 791.2), NYLL § 2 and the regulations thereunder, and is jointly and severally liable with WESTERN METAL WORK & SUPPLY, INC. d/b/a Master Metal Work and MASTER METAL WORK & SUPPLY, INC. d/b/a Master Metal Work.
25. Owner/Operator Defendant “JOHN” XU, upon information and belief the son of Owner/Operator Defendant ZHI YUAN XU, (1) had the power to hire and fire employees, (2) supervised and controlled employee work schedules or conditions of employment, (3) determined the rate and method of payment, and (4) maintained employee records at WESTERN METAL WORK & SUPPLY, INC. d/b/a Master Metal Work and MASTER METAL WORK & SUPPLY, INC. d/b/a Master Metal Work.
26. Upon personal knowledge of Plaintiff, Owner/Operator Defendant “JOHN” XU acted intentionally and maliciously and is an employer pursuant to FLSA, 29 U.S.C. § 203(d) and regulations promulgated thereunder (29 C.F.R. § 791.2), NYLL § 2 and the regulations thereunder, and is jointly and severally liable with WESTERN METAL WORK & SUPPLY, INC. d/b/a Master Metal Work and MASTER METAL WORK & SUPPLY, INC. d/b/a Master Metal Work.
27. Owner/Operator Defendant JINPING XU a/k/a Jin Ping Xu (1) had the power to hire and fire employees, (2) supervised and controlled employee work schedules or conditions of employment, (3) determined the rate and method of payment, and (4) maintained employee records at WESTERN METAL WORK & SUPPLY, INC. d/b/a Master Metal Work and MASTER METAL WORK & SUPPLY, INC. d/b/a Master Metal Work.

28. Upon information and belief, Owner/Operator Defendant JINPING XU a/k/a Jin Ping Xu acted intentionally and maliciously and is an employer pursuant to FLSA, 29 U.S.C. § 203(d) and regulations promulgated thereunder (29 C.F.R. § 791.2), NYLL § 2 and the regulations thereunder, and is jointly and severally liable with WESTERN METAL WORK & SUPPLY, INC. d/b/a Master Metal Work and MASTER METAL WORK & SUPPLY, INC. d/b/a Master Metal Work.
29. Owner/Operator Defendant TIM READER (1) had the power to hire and fire employees, (2) supervised and controlled employee work schedules or conditions of employment, (3) determined the rate and method of payment, and (4) maintained employee records at MASTER METAL WORK & SUPPLY, INC. d/b/a Master Metal Work.
30. Owner/Operator Defendant TIM READER appears as CEO and Principal of MASTER METAL WORK & SUPPLY, INC. d/b/a Master Metal Work in the D&B Market Identifiers Plus and Worldbase business databases.
31. Upon information and belief, Owner/Operator Defendant TIM READER acted intentionally and maliciously and is an employer pursuant to FLSA, 29 U.S.C. § 203(d) and regulations promulgated thereunder (29 C.F.R. § 791.2), NYLL § 2 and the regulations thereunder, and is jointly and severally liable with WESTERN METAL WORK & SUPPLY, INC. d/b/a Master Metal Work and MASTER METAL WORK & SUPPLY, INC. d/b/a Master Metal Work.
32. Plaintiff has fulfilled all conditions precedent to the institution of this action and/or conditions have been waived.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

33. Defendants committed the following alleged acts knowingly, intentionally and willfully against the Plaintiff, the FLSA Collective Plaintiffs, and the Class.
34. From on or about March 22, 2016 to December 31, 2016, Plaintiff JIN LI worked as a welder for WESTERN METAL WORK & SUPPLY, INC. d/b/a Master Metal Work, located at 131-01 Fowler Avenue, Flushing, NY 11355.
35. At all relevant times, Plaintiff's regular work schedule ran from 07:30 to 18:30, for eleven (11) hours per day from Monday to Saturday, with Sundays off, for six (6) days and sixty-six (66) hours each week.
36. From March 22, 2016 to December 31, 2016, Plaintiff was paid a flat compensation of either three thousand five hundred dollars (\$3,500) or three thousand six hundred dollars (\$3,600) per month, cash, in installments of two thousand dollars (\$2,000) on the fifteenth day of each month and the balance of either one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500) or one thousand six hundred dollars (\$1,600) on the first day of the following month.
37. From November 23, 2016 to December 18, 2016, Plaintiff did not attend work due to an on-the-job injury to his right foot and ring finger.
38. Plaintiff was required to purchase four rolling rulers and one angle ruler, for a total of about seventy dollars (\$70.00). He was not reimbursed.
39. At all relevant times, Plaintiff was not paid spread-of-hours pay for all days in which he worked over ten (10) hours in a workday.
40. At all relevant times, Defendants knowingly and willfully failed to provide Plaintiff and similarly situated employees with Time of Hire Notice in English and Chinese (Plaintiff's primary language) reflecting true rates of pay and payday.

41. At all relevant times, Defendants knowingly and willfully failed to provide Plaintiff and similarly situated employees with paystubs that listed employee's name, employer's name, employer's address and telephone number, employee's rate or rates of pay, any deductions made from employee's wages, any allowances claimed as part of the minimum wage, and the employee's gross and net wages for each pay day in English and in Chinese (Plaintiff's primary language), as required by NYLL § 195(1).
42. At all relevant times, Plaintiff was allowed only one twenty (20) minute break per day.
43. Defendants knew that the nonpayment of minimum wage, overtime pay and New York's "spread of hours" premium for every day in which Plaintiff worked over ten (10) hours would financially injure Plaintiff and similarly situated employees and violate state and federal laws.
44. Defendants did not post the required New York State Department of Labor posters regarding minimum wage pay rates, overtime pay, and pay day.

COLLECTIVE ACTION ALLEGATIONS

45. Plaintiff brings this action individually and as class representative individually and on behalf of all other and former non-exempt personnel who have been or were employed by the Defendants for up to the last three (3) years, through entry of judgment in this case (the "Collective Action Period") and who were not paid the minimum wage or compensated overtime compensation for all hours worked in excess of forty (40) hours per week (the "Collective Action Members").

CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS

46. Plaintiff brings his NYLL claims pursuant to Federal Rules of Civil Procedure ("Fed. R. Civ. P.") Rule 23, on behalf of all non-exempt personnel employed by Defendants on or

after the date that is six years before the filing of the Complaint in this case as defined herein (the “Class Period”).

47. All said persons, including Plaintiff, are referred to herein as the “Class.”
48. The Class members are readily ascertainable. The number and identity of the Class members are determinable from the records of Defendants. The hours assigned and worked, the positions held, and the rate of pay for each Class Member is also determinable from Defendants’ records. For purpose of notice and other purposes related to this action, their names and addresses are readily available from Defendants. Notice can be provided by means permissible under said Fed. R. Civ. P. 23.

Numerosity

49. The proposed Class is so numerous that joinder of all members is impracticable, and the disposition of their claims as a class will benefit the parties and the Court. Although the precise number of such persons is unknown, and the facts on which the calculation of the number is presently within the sole control of the Defendants, upon information and belief, there are more than forty (40) members of the class.

Commonality

50. There are questions of law and fact common to the Class which predominate over any questions affecting only individual class members, including:
 - a. Whether Defendant employed Plaintiff and the Class within the meaning of the New York law;
 - b. Whether Plaintiff and Class members are entitled to and paid minimum wage under the New York Labor Law;

- c. Whether Plaintiff and Class members are entitled to and paid overtime under the New York Labor Law;
- d. Whether Defendants maintained a policy, pattern and/or practice of failing to pay Plaintiffs and the Rule 23 Class spread-of-hours pay as required by the NYLL;
- e. Whether Defendants maintained a policy, pattern and/or practice of failing to provide requisite statutory meal periods;
- f. Whether Defendants provided a Time of Hire Notice detailing rates of pay and payday at the start of Plaintiffs and the Rule 23 Class's start of employment and/or timely thereafter;
- g. Whether Defendants provided paystubs detailing the rates of pay and credits taken towards the minimum wage to Plaintiffs and the Rule 23 class on each payday; and
- h. At what common rate, or rates subject to common method of calculation was and is Defendants required to pay the Class members for their work.

Typicality

51. Plaintiff's claims are typical of those claims which could be alleged by any member of the Class, and the relief sought is typical of the relief that would be sought by each member of the Class in separate actions. All the Class members were subject to the same corporate practices of Defendants, as alleged herein, of failing to pay minimum wage or overtime compensation. Defendants' corporate-wide policies and practices affected all Class members similarly, and Defendants benefitted from the same type of unfair and/or wrongful acts as to each Class member. Plaintiff and other Class members sustained

similar losses, injuries and damages arising from the same unlawful policies, practices and procedures.

Adequacy

52. Plaintiff is able to fairly and adequately protect the interests of the Class and have no interests antagonistic to the Class. Plaintiff is represented by attorneys who are experienced and competent in representing Plaintiffs in both class action and wage-and-hour employment litigation cases.

Superiority

53. A class action is superior to other available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of the controversy, particularly in the context of wage-and-hour litigation where individual Class members lack the financial resources to vigorously prosecute a lawsuit against corporate defendants. Class action treatment will permit a large number of similarly situated persons to prosecute their common claims in a single forum simultaneously, efficiently and without the unnecessary duplication of efforts and expenses that numerous individual actions engender. Because the losses, injuries and damages suffered by each of the individual Class members are small in the sense pertinent to a class action analysis, the expenses and burden of individual litigation would make it extremely difficult or impossible for the individual Class members to redress the wrongs done to them. Further, important public interests will be served by addressing the matter as a class action. The adjudication of individual litigation claims would result in a great expenditure of Court and public resources; however, treating the claims as a class action would result in a significant saving of these costs. The prosecution of separate actions by individual members of the Class would create a risk of inconsistent and/or

varying adjudications with respect to the individual members of the Class, establishing incompatible standards of conduct for Defendants and resulting in the impairment of Class members' rights and the disposition of their interests through actions to which they were not parties. The issues in this action can be decided by means of common, class-wide proof. In addition, if appropriate, the Court can, and is empowered to, fashion methods to efficiently manage this action as a class action.

54. Upon information and belief, Defendants and other employers throughout the state violate the New York Labor Law. Current employees are often afraid to assert their rights out of fear of direct or indirect retaliation. Former employees are fearful of bringing claims because doing so can harm their employment, future employment, and future efforts to secure employment. Class actions provide class members who are not named in the complaint a degree of anonymity which allows for the vindication of their rights while eliminating or reducing these risks.

STATEMENT OF CLAIMS

COUNT I.

[Violations of the Fair Labor Standards Act—Minimum Wage Brought on behalf of Plaintiff and the FLSA Collective]

55. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference all preceding paragraphs as though fully set forth herein.
56. At all relevant times, in violation of 29 U.S.C. § 206, Defendants had a policy and practice of refusing to pay the statutory minimum compensation to Plaintiff and the similarly situated collective action members for all hours worked.
57. The FLSA provides that any employer who violates the provisions of 29 U.S.C. § 206 shall be liable to the employees affected in the amount of their unpaid minimum compensation, and in an additional equal amount as liquidated damages. 29 U.S.C. § 216(b).

58. Defendants knowingly and willfully disregarded the provisions of the FLSA as evidenced by failing to compensate Plaintiff and Collective Class Members at the statutory minimum wage when they knew or should have known such was due and that failing to do so would financially injure Plaintiff and Collective Action members.

COUNT II.
**[Violation of New York Labor Law—Minimum Wage
Brought on behalf of Plaintiff and Rule 23 Class]**

59. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference all preceding paragraphs as though fully set forth herein.
60. At all relevant times, Plaintiff was employed by Defendants within the meaning of New York Labor Law §§ 2 and 651.
61. At all relevant times, Defendants had a policy and practice of refusing to pay the statutory minimum wage to Plaintiff and the Class Members for all hours worked.
62. Defendants knowingly and willfully violated Plaintiff's and similarly situated Class Members' rights by failing to pay him minimum wages in the lawful amount for all hours worked.
63. An employer who fails to pay the minimum wage rate shall be liable, in addition to the amount of any underpayments, for liquidated damages equal to twenty-five percent (25%) of the shortfall under NYLL §§190 *et seq.*, §§650 *et se q.*, and one hundred percent (100%) after April 9, 2011 under NY Wage Theft Prevention Act, and interest.

COUNT III.
**[Violations of the Fair Labor Standards Act—Overtime
Brought on behalf of Plaintiff and the FLSA Collective]**

64. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference all preceding paragraphs as though fully set forth herein.

65. At all relevant times, in violation of 29 U.S.C. § 207, Defendants had a policy and practice of refusing to pay the statutory compensation at a rate of one and one-half times (1.5x) their regular rates of pay to Plaintiff and the similarly situated collective action members for the hours they worked above forty (40) hours per week.
66. The FLSA provides that any employer who violates the provisions of 29 U.S.C. § 207 shall be liable to the employees affected in the amount of their unpaid overtime compensation, and in an additional equal amount as liquidated damages. 29 U.S.C. § 216(b).
67. Defendants knowingly and willfully disregarded the provisions of the FLSA as evidenced by failing to compensate Plaintiff and Collective Class Members at the statutory overtime premium when they knew or should have known such was due and that failing to do so would financially injure Plaintiff and Collective Action members.

COUNT IV.
[Violation of New York Labor Law—Overtime
Brought on behalf of Plaintiff and Rule 23 Class]

68. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference all preceding paragraphs as though fully set forth herein.
69. At all relevant times, Plaintiff was employed by Defendants within the meaning of New York Labor Law §§ 2 and 651.
70. At all relevant times, Defendants had a policy and practice of refusing to pay the statutory compensation at a rate of one and one-half times (1.5x) their regular rates of pay to Plaintiff and the Class Members for the hours they worked above forty (40) hours per week.
71. Defendants knowingly and willfully violated Plaintiff's and similarly situated Class Members' rights by failing to pay him overtime wages in the lawful amount for hours worked above forty (40) hours per week.

72. An employer who fails to pay the overtime rate shall be liable, in addition to the amount of any underpayments, for liquidated damages equal to twenty-five percent (25%) of the shortfall under NYLL §§190 *et seq.*, §§650 *et seq.*, and one hundred percent (100%) after April 9, 2011 under NY Wage Theft Prevention Act, and interest.

COUNT V.
**[Violation of New York Labor Law—Spread of Time Pay
Brought on behalf of Plaintiff and Rule 23 Class]**

73. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference all preceding paragraphs as though fully set forth herein.
74. The NYLL requires employers to pay an extra hour's pay for every day that an employee works an interval in excess of ten hours pursuant to NYLL §§ 190, *et seq.* and §§ 650 *et seq.*, and New York State Department of Labor regulations § 146-1.6.
75. Defendants' failure to pay Plaintiff spread-of-hours pay was not in good faith.

COUNT VI.
**[Violation of New York Labor Law—Record-Keeping Requirements
Brought on behalf of Plaintiff and Rule 23 Class]**

76. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference all preceding paragraphs as though fully set forth herein.
77. Defendants did not maintain, establish and preserve Plaintiff's weekly payroll records for a period of not less than six years, as required by NYCRR § 146-2.1.
78. As a result of Defendants' unlawful conduct, Plaintiff has sustained damages including loss of earning, in an amount to be established at trial, liquidated damages, prejudgment interest, costs and attorneys' fees, pursuant to state law.

79. Upon information and belief, Defendants failed to maintain adequate written records of actual hours worked and true wages earned by Plaintiff in order to facilitate their exploitation of Plaintiff's labor.
80. Defendants' failure to maintain adequate and accurate written records of actual hours worked and true wages earned by Plaintiff were not in good faith.

COUNT VII.

**[Violation of New York Labor Law—Time of Hire Wage Notice Requirement
Brought on behalf of Plaintiff and Rule 23 Class]**

81. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference all preceding paragraphs as though fully set forth herein.
82. The NYLL and supporting regulations require employers to provide written notice of the rate or rates of pay and the basis thereof, whether paid by the hour, shift, day, week, salary, piece, commission, or other; allowances, if any, claimed as a part of minimum wage, including tip, meal, or lodging allowances; the regular pay day designated by the employer; the name of the employer; any "doing business as" names used by the employer; the physical address of employer's main office or principal place of business, and a mailing address if different; the telephone number of the employer. N.Y. Lab. Law § 195-1(a).
83. Defendants intentionally failed to provide notice to employees in violation of New York Labor Law § 195, which requires all employers to provide written notice in the employee's primary language about the terms and conditions of employment related to rate of pay, regular pay cycle and rate of overtime on their or her first day of employment.
84. Defendants not only did not provide notice to each employee at Time of Hire, but failed to provide notice to Plaintiff even after the fact.
85. Due to Defendants' violations of New York Labor Law, Plaintiff is entitled to recover from

Defendants, jointly and severally, \$50 for each workday that the violation occurred or continued to occur, up to \$5,000, together with costs and attorneys' fees pursuant to New York Labor Law. N.Y. Lab. Law §198(1-b).

COUNT VIII.

**[Violation of New York Labor Law—New York Pay Stub Requirement
Brought on behalf of Plaintiff and Rule 23 Class]**

86. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference all preceding paragraphs as though fully set forth herein.
87. The NYLL and supporting regulations require employers to provide detailed paystub information to employees every payday. NYLL § 195-1(d).
88. Defendants have failed to make a good faith effort to comply with the New York Labor Law with respect to compensation of each Plaintiff, and did not provide the paystub on or after each Plaintiffs' payday.
89. Due to Defendants' violations of New York Labor Law, Plaintiff is entitled to recover from Defendants, jointly and severally, \$250 for each workday of the violation, up to \$5,000 for each Plaintiff together with costs and attorneys' fees pursuant to New York Labor Law. N.Y. Lab. Law §198(1-d).

COUNT IX.

**[Violation of New York Labor Law—Failure to Provide Meal Periods
Brought on behalf of Plaintiff and Rule 23 Class]**

90. Plaintiffs re-allege and incorporate by reference all preceding paragraphs as though fully set forth herein.
91. The NYLL requires that employees provide: a noon day meal period of at least thirty (30) minutes for employees who work a shift of more than six hours extending over the noon day meal period from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.; an additional meal period between 5 p.m. and 7

p.m. of at least twenty (20) minutes for employees whose shift started before 11 a.m. and continues later than 7 p.m.; and/or a forty-five (45) minute meal period at a time midway between the beginning and end of the shift for employees whose shift lasts more than six hours and starts between 1 p.m. and 6 a.m. NYLL § 162.

92. Defendants failed to provide meal periods required by NYLL § 162 for every day that Plaintiffs and the Rule 23 class work or worked.
93. Though the Department of Labor commissioner may permit a shorter time to be fixed for meal periods than hereinbefore provided, such permit must be in writing and be kept conspicuously posted in the main entrance of the establishment. No such permit is posted.
94. Defendants' failure to provide the meal periods required by NYLL § 162 was not in good faith.

COUNT X.

[Violations of 26 USC § 7434—Civil Damages for Fraudulent Filing of IRS Returns Brought on behalf of Plaintiff]

95. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates and incorporate by reference all preceding paragraphs as though fully set forth herein.
96. 26 USC §7434 provides that if any person willfully files a fraudulent information return with respect to payments purported to be made to any other person, such other person may bring a civil action for damages against the person so filing such a return.
97. Due to Defendants' violations of 26 USC §7434, Plaintiff is entitled to recover from Defendants, jointly and severally: (1) any actual damages sustained by the plaintiffs as a proximate result of the filing of the fraudulent information return (including any costs attributable to resolving deficiencies asserted as a result of such a filing), (2) the cost of the action, and (3) at the court's discretion, reasonable attorneys' fees.

COUNT XI.
[Violations of New York General Business Law § 349—Civil Damages for Deceptive Acts
and Practices
Brought on behalf of Plaintiff]

98. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference all preceding paragraphs as though fully set forth herein.
99. NY General Business Law § 349 provides that if any person willfully files a fraudulent information return with respect to payments purported to be made to any other person, such other person may bring a civil action for damages against the person so filing such a return.
100. Due to Defendants' violations of NY GBS Law § 349, Plaintiff is entitled to recover from Defendants, jointly and severally, their actual damages or fifty dollars (\$50), whichever is greater, or both such actions.
101. Plaintiff demands the right to examine, in person or by attorney, the minutes of the proceedings of the shareholders and records of shareholders of Defendant Corporation to recover wages owed as employees of the corporation.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, on his own behalf, and on behalf of the FLSA Collective Plaintiffs and Rule 23 Class, respectfully requests that this Court enter a judgment providing the following relief:

- a) Authorizing Plaintiff at the earliest possible time to give notice of this collective action, or that the Court issue such notice, to all persons who are presently, or have up through the extent allowable under the statute of limitations and including the date of issuance of court-supervised notice, been employed by Defendants as non-exempt employees. Such notice shall inform them that the civil notice has

been filed, of the nature of the action, of their right to join this lawsuit if they believe they were denied minimum wage or premium overtime wages;

- b) Certification of this case as a collective action pursuant to FLSA;
- c) Issuance of notice pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 216(b) to all similarly situated members of the FLSA opt-in class, apprising them of the pendency of this action, and permitting them to assert timely FLSA claims and state claims in this action by filing individual Consent to Sue forms pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 216(b), and appointing Plaintiff and his counsel to represent the Collective Action Members;
- d) A declaratory judgment that the practices complained of herein are unlawful under FLSA and New York Labor Law;
- e) An injunction against Corporate Defendants, its officers, agents, successors, employees, representatives and any and all persons acting in concert with them as provided by law, from engaging in each of unlawful practices and policies set forth herein;
- f) An award of unpaid minimum wages due under FLSA to Plaintiff and the Collective Action members.
- g) An award of unpaid overtime wages due under FLSA to Plaintiff and the Collective Action members.
- h) An award of liquidated and/or punitive damages as a result of Defendants' knowing and willful failure to pay wages at least the hourly minimum wage, and overtime compensation pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 216;
- i) An award of unpaid minimum wages due under NYLL to Plaintiff and the Collective and Class Action members.

- j) An award of unpaid overtime wages due under NYLL to Plaintiff and the Collective and Class Action members.
- k) An award of compensatory and liquidated damages in the amount of twenty-five percent (25%) prior to April 9, 2011 and one hundred percent (100%) thereafter under NY Wage Theft Prevention Act, as a result of Defendants' knowing and willful failure to pay wages at least the hourly minimum wage, overtime compensation, and "spread of hours" premium pursuant to NYLL;
- l) Up to five thousand dollars (\$5,000) per Plaintiff for Defendants' failure to provide a Time of Hire Notice detailing rates of pay and payday;
- m) Up to five thousand dollars (\$5,000) per Plaintiff for Defendants' failure to provide a paystub that lists employee's name, employer's name, employer's address and telephone number, employee's rate or rates of pay, any deductions made from employee's wages, any allowances claimed as part of the minimum wage, and the employee's gross and net wages for each pay day;
- n) An award of liquidated and/or punitive damages as a result of Defendants' willful failure to pay minimum wage, overtime compensation, and "spread of hours" premium pursuant to New York Labor Law;
- o) An award of costs and expenses of this action together with reasonable attorneys' and expert fees pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 216(b) and NYLL §§ 198 and 663;
- p) The cost and disbursements of this action;
- q) An award of prejudgment and post-judgment fees;
- r) Providing that if any amounts remain unpaid upon the expiration of ninety days following the issuance of judgment, or ninety days after expiration of the time to

appeal and no appeal is then pending, whichever is later, the total amount of judgment shall automatically increase by fifteen percent, as required by NYLL § 198(4); and

- s) Such other and further legal and equitable relief as this Court deems necessary, just, and proper.

Dated: Flushing, NY
February 23, 2017

TROY LAW, PLLC
*Attorneys for the Plaintiff, proposed FLSA
Collective and proposed Class Plaintiffs*

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